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**Appropriations Committee  
 Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan  
 and the Impact of the Governor's Rescissions  
 Wednesday, December 09, 2009, 2: 00 PM, Room 2C**

**On behalf of the Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs Association I am requesting that the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut Legislature preserve the funding for the Grant Program that supports the Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit Firefighter Training program**

**Background**

The firefighter recruit academy is not a state mandate. It is however a local necessity. As Fire Chiefs, members of the CCFCA bear a tremendous responsibility: First to our Firefighters; they deserve the best training available so that from the first day on the job to their last that they have the skills and training necessary to keep themselves safe.

Second to our communities, they demand competent and capable public safety professional who on a moments notice will deliver the life saving services that will prevent emergencies from becoming personal tragedies.

Lastly to the taxpayers, that we accomplish the training of all of our members in the most comprehensive and cost effective methods possible.

It is only with the State of Connecticut supported Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit program that we can accomplish all three of these goals.

On behalf of the CCFCA I am concerned that the proposed cuts to the Ct Fire Academy (CFA) budget will have a severe and detrimental impact on the communities and Fire Departments it serves. The municipal career fire departments rely on the CFA to deliver recruit training to new firefighters. The academy accomplishes this through the delivery of a 14 week residential recruit training program. The Career Fire Chiefs have worked tirelessly with the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control to develop a comprehensive training program that produces the very best Firefighters. Every resident of the state benefits from the excellent work that the CFA does in training and orienting new recruits for a career in Public Safety. The investments in this training produce a professional firefighter most of whom commit themselves to a 30+ year career in providing fire, emergency medical and rescue services to their community.

The advances we have achieved are put at risk through the reduction in funding designated for this recruit training. Municipalities are making very difficult budget decisions and the loss of funding for the recruit program will force many to forego the

recruit academy. The results of those decisions will produce a short term savings in municipal budgets but will over the long term require expensive certification classes to meet the level of training the recruit program provides. Some communities will forego the certification options altogether and the result will be a diminishment of training standards for firefighters statewide.

The cut will deny the opportunity for local municipalities to train and certify their new firefighters in the following areas

Firefighter 1	Firefighter II	Hazardous Materials
Cultural Diversity	NIMS	Flashover
MayDay (Firefighter Survival)	Reading Smoke	Ground Fires
Thermal Imaging	Pump Operations	Ladder Operations
Fire Investigation	Elevator Rescue	Confined Space Rescue
Mass Decontamination	Utility Emergencies	
Firefighter Safety and Survival	Rapid Intervention Teams	

I implore the Legislature to continue to assist us and support this very basic function of government 'to provide life saving emergency services to every resident and visitor in this State.' I thank you for your past commitment to the goals of the Connecticut Fire Service and the Connecticut Fire Academy. I look forward to your continued support.

Respectfully submitted  
Denis McCarthy  
Fire Chief , Norwalk  
President Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs Association